

AK Crossasia Vortrag
**A Foot in two Worlds: Working between
Academia and Policy in the post-Soviet space**
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Intense competition for jobs in academia, particularly for early careers scholars, and the increasing costs of postdoctoral study, mean that on completion of their PhDs, many young academics find themselves moving into policy advisor and research positions in governmental, non-governmental, and commercial organisations and agencies by dint of the need to 'find a job'.

For some, this was the plan all along, and the in-depth expertise and theoretical perspective gained during several years of PhD study – not to mention the training in research techniques and the writing process – stand them in excellent stead for analysing and advising on complex areas of policy. For others, this can sometimes mean compromises between the need to earn a living, and the desire to remain engaged in academic life and debates: compromises that can seem uncomfortable, but which are also often productive, creative, and can be deeply rewarding.

In this talk, I consider my own experiences of working between academia and policy before, during, and after my PhD, the challenges and opportunities that this has presented, and how different projects in these 'two worlds' have complemented and fed into one another. In addition, I reflect on the ethical, and practical, conundrums presented by working in the sector that I was also studying, and which remains the focus of my academic enquiry: development programmes to promote gender equality in the republics of the former Soviet Union.

Joanna Pares Hoare gained a PhD in Development Studies from SOAS, University of London, in 2014; her PhD research was on gender, civil society, and international development interventions in Kyrgyzstan. Prior, during, and since then, she has taught at Masters and Undergraduate level, worked as a consultant or sometimes a 'real' employee for development and human rights organisations including Oxfam GB, the OECD, UNFPA, Minority Rights Group International, UNICEF, and most recently Amnesty International, and also held down a part-time job as Assistant Editor on the journal *Feminist Review*.

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